JoVSA: The Faculty/Student Research Connection

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We are beyond pleased to have assembled the third Student/Faculty Research issue of the Journal of Vincentian Social Action (JoVSA). Looking back over the past two years and reflecting on the challenges that so many in our community have overcome, the breadth and tireless effort that girds all of this work is inspiring. The following articles are collaborative works that share the hand of the student and mentor, each learning as they explore the consequences of racism, pandemic disease, and discrimination. We, the broader JoVSA community, are the beneficiaries of these works, each providing a view into common challenges across society, each identifying possible paths forward that lead to better healthcare and a more just world.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented extraordinary challenges for our community. The research front was no different. Face-to-face research had to be suspended due to safety concerns for the University students and research subjects. Completion of these projects required students and their faculty mentors to think outside of the box and present unique solutions to resolving issues related to social justice. One of the significant challenges over the last two years has been that only a portion of members from underserved communities can be reached virtually due to issues related to access. We’d like to commend our students and faculty mentors for their research persistence and dedication to not only finding sustainable solutions for problems related to poverty but also for sharing their results with the university community so we can all benefit from their findings. Their efforts are reflective of the University’s commitment to our Vincentian mission, even during unprecedented times.

One of the remarkable benefits of publishing JoVSA are the opportunities to see the many focused research initiatives that are undertaken. JoVSA is proud to be part of the St. John’s University Vincentian Institute for Social Action (VISA). VISA leads the St. John’s University community in exposing poverty and injustice. The Faculty Research Consortium (FRC), JoVSA’s Editorial Board, worked diligently to highlight this curated selection of Faculty/Student Research. Working together, JoVSA’s Editors, the FRC, and all of our contributors are very pleased to highlight these articles. Each is an example of what can happen when students and faculty work together to address an issue and bring about change.

Please let us know what you think: jovsa@stjohns.edu

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